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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am often amazed at how people want to punish a creative and innovative company such as Microsoft. Microsoft has just endured three long years of litigation and public battle over the antitrust lawsuit. Last November the lawsuit was finally settled and a resolution was reached that all parties could agree on.

The settlement agreed upon included many good provisions that will help to stimulate growth and competition while still offering protections for the smaller and newer companies in the market. Unified pricing lists are now required for Microsoft to provide the same terms, conditions, and prices to all companies that enter into licensing contracts with Microsoft. Microsoft has also been restricted from entering into any kind of contractual agreement with a computer manufacturer that would impede competition from other software companies. As I said, there are protections for the smaller companies, and protections for the competition in the market.

This is a good settlement, and there is no need to drag this litigation on further. The time has come to stop the public beating of a good company. Microsoft has done nothing but provide exceptional products and services. They have paid enough with this settlement. The next step could only be the breakup of the company. Do not let that happen. Leave the settlement in its current form. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Sharon O'Banion